

illustrations of its theme, such as the silly
 barber who
 got himself tortured for babbling in
 Peiraeus the first
 dim rumour of the Sicilian disaster, and was
 no sooner
 untied from the rack than he turned to the
 executioner
 and begged him for any later news that
 might have
 arrived meanwhile; or the retort of
 Aristode to one
 'who after much prittle-prattle and a long
 discourse, said
 thus unto him: "I doubt I have bin tedious
 unto you,
 Philosopher, with my many words"; "No, in
 good sooth
 (quoth Aristode unto him), for I gave no eare
 at all unto
 you." ' Certainly, when Plutarch sums up
 with the asser-
 tion that 'taciturnity hath not only this one
 fair property
 and good virtue, that (as Hippocrates saith)
 it never
 breedeth thirst; but also that it engendreth
 no pain, no
 grieve nor displeasure'—in the face of that
 revealing
 utterance we who know, alas, much better,
 may dismiss
 our last doubts of the loquacity of ancient
 Greece, the true
 fatherland of that Garrulous Man of
 Theophrastus whose
 very children tease him, saying at bedtime:
 'Talk to us,
 ;,papa, that we may go to sleep/ For an
 instant the modern
 reader seems to hear, as through the door of
 a banquet-
 hall momentarily opened, the gay babel of all
 those lively
 voices, stilled now for so many centuries,
 which Aristo-
 phanes mocked for their 'Everlasting Eh?'¹
 All the
 deeper was the admiration of the Athenians
 for excep-
 tions to their rule like the heroic prostitute
 Leaina, who

died in silence under the torturers' hands,
without a word
to betray the plot of Harmodius and
Aristogiton, the
tyrannicides; and was honoured by the
liberated republic
with a brazen statue, suggested by her
name, of a lioness
without a tongue.

The temper of Rome resembled laconic
Sparta, in this
as in other ways, rather than the rest of
Greece; as we in
ποιο τοΟmxcbpiov drevws irrocvs! το *τ{ Αfygis
oti,*